percentage of total plan outlay is on decline from 1.4% in the First Plan to 0.6% in the 8th Plan.

(c) and (d). Efforts are being made for obtaining enhanced allocation of funds for National Highways. However, it depends on the availability of resources at the National level.

Import of Medical Equipment

1365. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed the Director General Health Services (DGHS) to investigate into the import of medical equipment amounting to Rs.5000 crore by various hospitals by availing illegally and unauthorisedly duty free imports; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings and the persons apprehended in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). As per the order of the Delhi High Court, an enquiry into the issue of Custom Duty Exemption Certificates in certain cases is being conducted by the Chief Vigilance Officer of this Ministry. The matter is subjudice.

Child Mortality Rate

1366. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the child mortality rate in teh country is very high;

(b) the main factors responsible therefor;

(c) the state-wise position during last three years; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken to reduce and then to stop the child mortaility rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). As per the Registrar General of India the estimated death rate for children in 1993 was 23.7 per 1000 children in the age group 0-4 years. Prematurity, acute respiratory infection, diarrhoeal diseases and vaccine preventable diseases are among the major cases of death in children. Illiteracy, poverty and inadequate infrastructure development and access to health services are some of the factors which contribute to child mortality.

(c) The estimated child (0-4 years) mortality rate for 1991, 1992 and 1993 for major States are given in the attached statement.

(d) Under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme immunization, Prophylaxis against vitamin A deficiency, appropriate management of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections and essential newborn care are being provided to prevent morbidity and mortality in children.

STATEMENT

Child mortality (Age-Specific death rate for the age-group 0-4 years) major States, 1991-93

	1991	1992	1993
Andhra Pradesh	21.3	20.0	17.1
Assam	32.4	30.5	36.1
Bihar	22.0	26.8	25.3
Gujarat	23.3	23.7	20.7
Haryana	23.0	22.8	20.3
Karnataka	23.6	21.7	20.0
Kerala	4.3	3.9	3.4
Madhya Pradesh	44.5	38.5	36.9
Maharashtra	16.3	15.9	14.1
Orissa	39.0	33.4	33.7
Punjab	17.0	17.4	16.1
Rajasthan	30.9	33.6	26.2
Tamil Nadu	16.1	15.3	13.6
Uttar Pradesh	35.6	37.8	32.9
West Bengal	20.6	18.4	17.0

Source : Sample Registration System

[Translation]

Procurement of Uniforms and Blankets

1367. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether uniforms, blankets etc. were procurred for soldies from March 1,1996 to date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent thereon during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints against their inferior quality;

(e) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?